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Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 18 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is now the twentieth anniversary of the armed Zionist military aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations dedicated to peaceful purposes, Israeli warplanes having carried out an air attack on the city of Baghdad and targeted the Iraqi nuclear installations at 1837 hours on 7 June 1981. This Zionist aggression created a dangerous precedent in international relations, inasmuch as it targeted nuclear installations that were dedicated to peaceful purposes and subject to the full-scale safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and is an example of the use of force against an independent State in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

In view of the immediate and future legal, political and environmental dimensions of this Zionist aggression, international organizations adopted a series of resolutions and recommendations in its regard. The most significant of the responses from international organizations are set forth hereunder.

1. The Board of Governors of IAEA, in its resolution of 12 June 1981, and the General Conference of IAEA, in its resolution GC(XXV)/RES/381 of 26 September 1981, condemned Israel in the strongest terms, decided to suspend its rights and privileges as a member of the Agency and the provision of any assistance to it under the Agency's Technical Assistance Programme and requested the Security Council to keep the matter under review.

2. In its resolution 487 (1981), the Security Council:

Condemned the military attack by Israel in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international conduct;

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Expressed deep concern about the danger to international peace and security created by the premeditated Israeli air attack on Iraqi nuclear installations on 7 June 1981;

Called upon Israel to refrain in the future from any such acts or threats thereof;

Considered that the Israeli attack constituted a serious threat to the entire IAEA safeguards regime, which is the foundation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

Recognized the inalienable sovereign right of Iraq and all other States, especially the developing countries, to establish programmes of technological and nuclear development to develop their economy and industry for peaceful purposes in accordance with their present and future needs and consistent with the internationally accepted objectives of preventing nuclear-weapons proliferation;

Called upon Israel to place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards;

Considered that Iraq was entitled to appropriate redress for the destruction it had suffered, responsibility for which had been acknowledged by Israel.

The General Assembly adopted five resolutions on the armed Zionist aggression, namely resolutions 36/27, 37/18, 38/9, 39/14 and 40/6, under the item entitled "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security". In the aggregate of these resolutions, the Assembly:

Strongly condemned Israel for the deliberate and unprecedented act of aggression that it had committed in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international conduct, which created a threat to international peace and security;

Condemned Israel's refusal to comply with Security Council resolution 487 (1981);

Requested the Security Council to take urgent and effective measures to ensure that Israel complied without further delay with the provisions of resolution 487 (1981) and to deter Israel from repeating such an attack on nuclear facilities;

Viewed with deep concern Israel's refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and IAEA;

Called upon States and organizations to discontinue their cooperation with and assistance to Israel in the nuclear field and to cease forthwith any provision to Israel of arms and related material of all types which enabled it to commit acts of aggression against other States;

Noted with concern that Israel had refused to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons despite repeated international appeals to do so, and called upon it urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981);

Considered the Israeli act of aggression to be a violation and a denial of the inalienable sovereign right of States to scientific and technological progress for achieving economic and social development and raising the standards of

peoples and the dignity of the human person, as well as a violation and a denial of inalienable human rights and the sovereign right of States to development; and affirmed the right of States to develop technological and nuclear programmes for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the internationally accepted objectives of preventing proliferation;

Called upon the Security Council to institute effective enforcement action to prevent Israel from further endangering international peace and security through its acts of aggression and continued policies of expansion, occupation and annexation;

Expressed its conviction that Israeli threats to attack nuclear installations in Iraq and in other countries would continue to jeopardize international peace and security in the region, and warned it to desist from such armed attacks against nuclear installations;

Affirmed that Israel bore international responsibility for its aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations dedicated to peaceful purposes;

Expressed its grave concern over the misuse by Israel, in committing its acts of aggression against Arab countries, of the aircraft and weapons provided to it by the United States of America;

Expressed alarm at the increasing information and evidence regarding Israel's acquisition and development of nuclear weapons.

Many of the world's countries have also issued statements condemning the Zionist military aggression against Iraqi nuclear installations that were dedicated to peaceful purposes and subject to the IAEA safeguards regime, considering it to be in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and to create a dangerous precedent in international relations and calling for the protection of nuclear installations dedicated to peaceful purposes, for such attacks not to be repeated and for the aggressor to be deterred.

The Zionist entity continues to defy the international community, and it has complied with none of the aforesaid resolutions. It is still refusing to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full-scale safeguards regime, and it continues urgently to develop its arsenal of nuclear weapons, all types of weapons of mass destruction and the means for their delivery in order to perpetuate its illegitimate existence, maintain its occupation of Arab territory, threaten Arab national security and deprive the Arab nation of its legitimate right to scientific advancement. The stance of the Zionist entity receives support and backing from the United States, which is still providing it with scientific expertise under nuclear cooperation agreements. Zionist-American armaments cooperation, and in particular nuclear armaments cooperation, is to be regarded as in violation of the international agreements in the disarmament field and in particular of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, of which the United States is one of the depositary States.

The support of the United States in the armaments field has contributed to the excesses of the Zionist entity in its tendency towards aggression and expansion and to its violation of all the relevant international conventions by such actions as its bombardment of Palestinian civilians using American-made weapons, including

F-16 fighter aircraft, and its use of depleted-uranium projectiles and various types of tear gas.

The Zionist aggression against the Tammuz reactor, dedicated as it was to peaceful purposes, created a dangerous precedent in international relations and confirmed the Zionist policy of aggression and expansion to the detriment of the Arab nation and the threat it poses to Arab national security. It was one in a series of Zionist-American measures that seek to impose a scientific and technical blockade on the Arab nation. It disturbed the balance of forces in the Middle East, obstructed efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons in the region and constituted premeditated aggression against the IAEA safeguards regime and against the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

On the twentieth anniversary of the Zionist aggression against Iraqi nuclear installations that were dedicated to peaceful purposes, we alert you to the dangers inherent in the possession by the usurper Zionist entity of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction for regional and international peace and security. We call for the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and IAEA and, in particular, of Security Council resolution 487 (1981), in which the Council calls upon Israel to place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards. The attempts of the United States and the United Kingdom to disregard these resolutions and their determination over the past years to efface their memory and detract from their importance have revealed their claim of commitment to the security of the Middle East region to be false. The Zionist entity is the only party in the region to possess weapons of mass destruction, indeed a large arsenal of them including more than 200 nuclear warheads, and it is not subject to any inspection or any safeguards. We further call attention to the dangers of the double standards employed by the Security Council in dealing with the topic of nuclear non-proliferation in the Middle East and the threat posed by the Israeli nuclear armament programme to regional and international peace and security. It should be noted in this connection that Iraq has discharged all the obligations imposed on it under Security Council resolution 687 (1991), despite their harshness, but paragraph 14 of that resolution, relating to "steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery", has been ignored and left unimplemented and the Security Council has taken no action to address the question of the weapons of mass destruction in the possession of the Zionist entity.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 65 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative